(c) if so, the details of such surveys and their conclusions; and

(d) if not, the reasons compelling Government to go for diversification?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (d) Government of India is advising the States to promote crop diversification from cereal centric cropping system to more remunerative high value crops like horticulture, flowers, vegetables, medicinal and aromatic plants, pulses and oilseeds considering the availability and status of natural resources, agro-climatic conditions, domestic and international demand while keeping in view the National Food Security. The underlying objective of crop diversification is promotion of sustainable and remunerative agriculture.

Decline in investment in agriculture and allied sectors

280. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the investment in agriculture and allied sectors has declined in the last two decades when compared to the total of Gross Capital Formation (G.C.F.);

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last decade; and

(c) whether there is any proposal to increase the G.C.F. in agriculture and allied sectors during the Eleventh Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) The investment in agriculture and allied sectors as measured in terms of Gross Capital Formation (GCF) at current prices, as a proportion to total gross capital formation declined to 10% in 2003-04 against 10.51% in 1984-85. Details are as under:

Gross Capital Formation in Agriculture & Allied Sector

(At current prices) (Rs. in Crore)

Year	GCF in Agri. & Allied Sector	GCF of Eco.(by industry of use)	GCF in Agri. & allied sector as % of GCF of Economy
	2	3	4
84-85	6091	57970	10.51
85-86	6586	72720	9.06
86-87	6928	77610	8.93
87-88	7946	70673	11.24
88-89	9019	100778	8.95
89-90	9187	112355	8.18

1	2	3	4
1990-91	12224	126375	9.67
1991-92	12653	150094	8.43
1992-93	14979	167975	8.92
1993-94	15249	181133	8.42
1994-95	18383	248740	7.39
1995-96	21367	338268	6.32
1996-97	24415	312990	7.80
1997-98	26008	333976	7.79
1998-99	26714	335295	7.97
1999-2000	32308	380891	8.48
2000-01	32798	385000	8.52
2001-02	35486	396087	8.96
2002-03	37972	387067	9.81
2003-04	43907	482744	9.10

Source: Central Statistical Organisation

(c) Yes, Sir. Some of the strategies envisaged in the Approach Paper to the Eleventh Five Year Plan to step up investment in the agriculture and allied sectors are as follows:

- Increase in the rate of public investment in sectors like irrigation, watershed development in rainfed areas, rural road connectivity, rural electrification.
- Revitalization of Agricultural extension system through Krishi Vikas Kendras in each district.
- Agricultural diversification through horticulture and floriculture.
- Development/strengthening of modern agricultural markets.
- Reorientation of banks towards extending credit, especially production credit, to rural and farmers' households at connessional rate of interests.
- Revitalization of Agricultural research to ensure full exploitation of scientific advances for improving productivity according to agro-climatic conditions.
- Contract farming to attract corporate investors.

Funds for ICAR

281. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state: